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LOTTERY MAKES LARGEST QUARTERLY TRANSFER TO DATE --\$97.8 MILLION-- -Transfer Brings Education Lottery Fund Tally To Over \$628 Million!-

RALEIGH- \$628 million! That is the latest tally for the Education Lottery Fund after the North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL) made its third transfer for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. The NCEL transfer of \$97.8 million to the State Education Lottery Fund is for sales for the 3rd quarter (Jan. 1 – March 31) of the fiscal year. This is the largest quarterly transfer since its inception. Gross sales for the quarter were \$315 million, making this the highest quarter gross sales to date.

“We are incredibly proud to have raised this amount of money for education in just two years of operations,” said Tom Shaheen, NCEL executive director. “All of us at the lottery are ecstatic that our efforts to increase sales are really starting to pay off, but the real payoff that all North Carolinians should be happy to see is the return to education.”

The NCEL made the electronic transfer to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to be disbursed to these beneficiary programs: More at Four; class size reduction; school construction; and college scholarships for need-based students. The Department of Public Instruction will manage the distribution of the funds for all the beneficiary programs except the college scholarships, which will be handled by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority.

Since inception (March 30, 2006) through April 21, 2008, the NCEL has surpassed \$1.9 billion total gross sales. To date, FY08 sales are over \$114 million ahead of this same time last year.

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